

## Forest Service, USDA

## § 219.35

### § 219.33 Appeals of site-specific decisions.

If a site-specific decision is proposed in conjunction with a plan amendment or revision, a person may object to the proposed plan amendment or revision as described in (§ 219.32). If a decision is made to authorize a site-specific action, a person may request administrative review of that decision as described in 36 CFR part 215.

#### APPLICABILITY AND TRANSITION

### § 219.34 Applicability.

The provisions of this subpart are applicable to all units of the National Forest System as defined by 16 U.S.C. 1609.

### § 219.35 Transition.

(a) The transition period begins on November 9, 2000 and ends upon the completion of the revision process (§ 219.9) for each unit of the National Forest System. During the transition period, the responsible official must consider the best available science in implementing and, if appropriate, amending the current plan.

(b) Until the Department promulgates the revised final planning regulations announced in the December 3, 2001, Semiannual Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions, a responsible official may elect to continue or to initiate new plan amendments or revisions under the 1982 planning regulations in effect prior to November 9, 2000 (See 36 CFR parts 200 to 299, Revised as of July 1, 2001), or the responsible official may conduct the amendment or revision process in conformance with the provisions of this subpart. For the purposes of this paragraph, the reference to initiation of a plan amendment or revision means that the agency has issued a Notice of Intent or other public notification announcing the commencement of a plan amendment or revision as provided for in the Council on Environmental Quality regulations at 40 CFR 1501.7 or in Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Environmental Policy and Procedures Handbook, section 11.

(c) If a review of lands not suited for timber production is required before the completion of the revision process,

the review must take place as described by the provisions of § 219.28, except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section.

(d) Site-specific decisions made by the responsible official 3 years from November 9, 2000 and afterward must be in conformance with the provisions of this subpart.

(e) Within 1 year of November 9, 2000, the Regional Forester must withdraw the regional guide. When a regional guide is withdrawn, the Regional Forester must identify the decisions in the regional guide that are to be transferred to a regional supplement of the Forest Service directive system (36 CFR 200.4) or to one or more plans and give notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER of these actions. The transfer of direction from a regional guide to a regional supplement of the Forest Service directive system or to one or more plans does not constitute an amendment, revision, or site-specific action subject to Forest Service NEPA procedures.

(f) Within 3 years after completion of the revision process for a unit, the responsible official must complete the first monitoring and evaluation report as required in § 219.11(f).

(g) Within 1 year of November 9, 2000, the Chief of the Forest Service must establish a schedule for completion of the revision process for each unit of the National Forest System.

#### APPENDIX A TO § 219.35

#### INTERPRETIVE RULE RELATED TO PARAGRAPH 219.35(b)

The Department is making explicit its pre-existing understanding of paragraph (b) of this section with regard to the appeal or objection procedures that may be applied to amendments or revisions of land and resource management plans during the transition from the appeal procedures of 36 CFR part 217 in effect prior to November 9, 2000 (See CFR 36 parts 200 to 299, Revised as of July 1, 2000), to the objection procedures of § 219.32 as follows:

1. The option to proceed under the 1982 regulations or under the provisions of this subpart specifically includes the option to select either the administrative appeal and review procedures of 36 CFR part 217 in effect prior to November 9, 2000, or the objection procedures of 36 CFR 219.32.

2. The Department interprets the term "initiated," as used in paragraph (b) of this section, to indicate that the agency has

issued a Notice of Intent or other public notification announcing the commencement of a plan revision or amendment as provided for in the Council on Environmental Quality regulations at 40 CFR 1501.7 or in Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Environmental Policy and Procedures Handbook, section 11.

[65 FR 67568, Nov. 9, 2000, as amended at 66 FR 1865, Jan. 10, 2001; 66 FR 27554, May 17, 2001; 67 FR 35434, May 20, 2002]

#### DEFINITIONS

##### § 219.36 Definitions.

Definitions of the special terms used in this subpart are set out in alphabetical order in this section as follows:

*Adaptive management:* An approach to natural resource management wherein the effects of policies, plans, and actions are monitored for the purpose of learning and adjusting future management actions. Successive iteration of the adaptive process is essential in contributing to sustainability.

*Assessment or analysis area:* The geographic area included within the scope of a broad-scale assessment or local analysis.

*Candidate species:* Species identified by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), which are considered to be candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act as published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

*Conservation agreement:* A formal agreement between the Forest Service and the USFWS and/or NMFS identifying management actions necessary to prevent the need to list species under the Endangered Species Act.

*Current climatic period:* The period of time since establishment of the modern major vegetation types, which typically encompass the late Holocene Epoch including the present, including likely climatic conditions within the planning period. The climatic period is typically centuries to millennia in length, a period of time that is long enough to encompass the variability that species and ecosystems have experienced.

*Desired condition:* A statement describing a common vision for a specific area of land or type of land within the plan area. Statements of desired conditions should include the estimated time required for their achievement.

*Desired non-native species:* Those species of plants or animals which are not indigenous to an area but valued for their contribution to species diversity or their high social, cultural or economic value.

*Disturbance regime:* Actions, functions, or events that influence or maintain the structure, composition, or function of terrestrial or aquatic ecosystems. Natural disturbances include, among others, drought, floods, wind, fires, insects, and pathogens. Human-caused disturbances include actions such as recreational use, livestock grazing, mining, road construction, timber harvest, and the introduction of exotic species.

*Diversity of plant and animal communities:* The distribution and relative abundance of plant and animal communities and their component species occurring within an area.

*Ecological conditions:* Components of the biological and physical environment that can affect the diversity of plant and animal communities, including species viability, and the productive capacity of ecological systems. These could include the abundance and distribution of aquatic and terrestrial habitats, roads and other structural developments, human uses, and invasive and exotic species.

*Ecological sustainability:* The maintenance or restoration of the composition, structure, and processes of ecosystems including the diversity of plant and animal communities and the productive capacity of ecological systems.

*Ecosystem composition:* The plant and animal species and communities in the plan area.

*Ecosystem processes:* Ecological functions such as photosynthesis, energy flow, nutrient cycling, water movement, disturbance, and succession.

*Ecosystem structure:* The biological and physical attributes that characterize ecological systems.

*Focal species:* Focal species are surrogate measures used in the evaluation of ecological sustainability, including species and ecosystem diversity. The key characteristic of a focal species is